

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:OCON, AORG, CI,

SUBJECT: FIFTEENTH MEETING, PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
INTER-AMERICAN TRAVEL CONGRESS (IATC)
VINA DEL MAR, MARCH 30- APRIL 1, A977

1. IN COURSE OF ROUTINE PREPARATION FOR THE XV MEETING,
DEPARTMENT CONSULTED WITH IATC PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
(PART OF OAS SECRETARIAT) REGARDING WORKING PAPERS
ASSIGNED BY THE XIV MEETING LAST AUGUST IN RIO TO BE READY
FOR XV MEETING. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ADVISED THAT THEY
WERE STILL PREPARING THE WORKING PAPERS, AND WOULD PROBABLY
NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE ALL OF THAT PRIOR TO THE DATE OF
THE VINA DEL MAR MEETING.

2. IN FACT, FOR SEVERAL AGENDA TOPICS PREPARATIONS ARE
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ONLY AT A PRELIMINARY STAGE, E.G., DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE
IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE XV MEETING RATHER THAN RESULTS
OF SURVEY USING QUESTIONNAIRE AS HAD BEEN ASSIGNED.
CERTAIN PAPERS CONCERN MATTERS ON WHICH PRIOR GOVERNMENT
CLEARANCE IS NECESSARY, SUCH AS AIR FARES.

3. WITHOUT ASSESSING RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IN SOME

INSTANCES OBVIOUSLY RESTS WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUESTED INFORMATION, THE FACT IS THAT, WITH BARELY TWO WEEKS REMAINING, THE DELAYED DOCUMENTATION WILL NOT PERMIT ADEQUATE USG PREPARATIONS. THIS WILL DEFEAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING HELD ONLY EIGHT MONTHS AFTER PREVIOUS SESSION, WHICH WAS TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR XIII PLENARY TRAVEL CONGRESS NEXT FALL. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, U.S. DELEGATION WOULD BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES, THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY ADVISABLE THAT THE MEETING BE POSTPONED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, THE EXACT TIME DEPENDING ON CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN AND THE SECRETARIAT AS TO STATUS OF PREPARATIONS.

4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PANAMA: XV MEETING WAS CONVOKED BY JOSE ROGELIO ARIAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IATC) OF THE INSTITUTO PANAMENO DE TURISMO. EMBASSY REQUESTED URGENTLY CONVEY TO ARIAS DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN AND INQUIRE IF HE WOULD

CONSIDER POSTPONING XV MEETING FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE . INFORM HIM THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO NOTIFYING CHILEAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OF ITS APPROACH TO HIM.

5. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SANTIAGO: EMBASSY REQUESTED TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES GOC INCLUDING LILIANA MAHN, DIRECTORA, SERVICIO NACIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DE TURISMO, THE OFFICIAL HOST FOR THE XV MEETING, STATING THAT DEPARTMENT, HOPES FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, GOC COULD RECOGNIZE NECESSITY FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING. ASSURE GOC U.S. CONTINUES SUPPORT CHILE AS SITE.
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